reactivation of the civil administration, restoring its morale, and restoring the confidence of the people in it. Intensive efforts are being made to reactivate the political forces and further encourage and facilitate political activities in the State. Action has also been taken to reduce tension among the people by steps such as the release of detenues, visibly increased transparency, continuing restraint by the security forces operations to aviod harm to civilian life and property, etc. The Government has remained willing and open to dialogue with any persons/groups who are willing to co-operate in bringing violence to end and the restoration of peace and normalcy. The efforts in all these directions are being closely followed up and will continue to be intensively pursued and further consolidated.

Spurt in Terrorism in J & K

1796. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many civilians, militants and security personnel were killed in Jammu and Kashmir, year-wise, after the insurgency started there;

(b) the number of foreign mercenaries operating in the State of J&K and the names of countries to which they belong;

(c) what are the reasons for the spurt of terrorist activities in the State during the last four months; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to announce a package of steps to improve the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, if so, when it will be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) According to available information the number of civilians, militants and Security Personnel killed in Jammu & Kashmir from 1990 to 31st July, 1995, are as follows:

	Civilians	Militants	personnel	Total
1990	862	183	132	1177
1991	594	614	185	1393
1992	859	873	177	1909
1993	1021	1330	216	2567
1994	1072	15%	199	2867
1995 (till 31July)	678	808	138	1624
TOTAL	5086	5404	1047	11537

(b) It is not possible to give the precise number of foreign mercenaries operating in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. However, from 1990 till 31st July, 1995, as many as 79 foreign mercenaries have been arrested and 295 killed in the State. They belonged to various countries including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Yemen and Bahrain, etc.

(c) As a result of the multi faceted efforts of the Government, over the past year, there has been a progressive qualitative change and improvement in the overall situation in the State. There is also a perceptible change in the mood of the people and their attitude towards the militants. Together with all this, the prospects of the revival of the democratic process in the State and related developments have led to desperation among certain militant groups and their sponsors across the border, and consequent desperate attempts, step up of violence, atrocities on innocent civilians, and targetted attacks particularly on Government servants, the media and politicians and their associates, in a bid to thwart the developing political and democratic process at any cost.

(d) The Government are aware of these designs and efforts and is monitoring the developments closely. A variety of measures are being taken to deal with the situation. These *inter-alia* include the maintenance of intensified

vigilance and sustained pressure and operations against the militants by the security forces; focussed steps to accelerate economic and development activities and creation of additional employment opportunities for the youth; special attention to reactivation of the local administration bringing it closer to the people and restoration of the peoples' confidence in it; increased transparency and other measures like release of detenues etc. to relieve tension among the people; efforts to reactivate and encourage the political forces in the. State; and an expression of Government's-openness to dialogue with any person/ group who may be willing to cooperate towards the restoration of peace and normalcy in the State. All these efforts have had a definite positive impact and the Government will continue to pursue them intensively and consolidate the situation further.

Technical Expertise of District Rural Development Agencies

1797. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor technical knowhow with the District Rural Development Agencies in the country;

(b) whether there is a need to strengthen' the technical manpower and knowhow in order to ensure qualitative implementation of rural development programmes;

(c) if so, the Central assistance proposed to be provided to the State Governments for the purpose; and

(d) the steps taken to revitalise rural development programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI UTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) For strengthening the implementing machinery at DRDA's level, Cabinet Secretary has recently written to all Chief Secretaries suggesting some measures in this regard, which interali includes the following points relating to technical aspects:—

(i) There should be an additional Project Director and technical support staff exclusively for Rural Employment Works. The Additional Project Director should be a technical person of the rank of an Executive Engineer or even a superintending Engineer in the case of DRDA receiving very large allocations.

(ii) The Technical Wing, either in the DRDA or in the Zilla Parishad, - should also be adequately strengthened. Many districts receiving ^substantial allocations (Rs.40—50 crores) .are handling such programmes with the assistance of only two or three Junior Engineers and Assistant Engineers. This is woefully inadequate, Depending upon the circumstances and the requirements, one or more Executive Engineers(s) alongwith supporting staff, should be posted to the DRDA/Zilla Parishads, if necessary through redeployment from existing engineering departments of the State Government. The constitution of a separate Rural Engineering Cadre to implement rural development programmes could also be explored. Following a detailed redeployment exercise and depending upon the requirements, the Government of India would be willing to share costs for deploying additional technical staff.